

REMARKS

The present application included pending claims 1-27. Claims 2, 3, 11, 12, 15, 20 and 24-27 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1 and 4-10 have been amended.

Claims 1, 4-10 and 13-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. 6,129,671 (“Hastings”) in view of U.S. 2003/0088781 (“ShamRao”) or U.S. 2003/0200217 (“Ackerman”) in view of U.S. 6,260,021 (“Wong”). The Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite, in part, “wherein **user preference information with respect to imaging capabilities of said medical imaging device** is associated with the stored biometric data and with the personal identification information.” Claim 10 has been amended to recite, in part, “wherein personal identification information and **user preference information with respect to imaging capabilities of said medical imaging device** are associated with the stored biometric data.” Further, claim 19 recites, in part, “storing **individual imaging preferences for the medical imaging system** as user preference information and associating the user preference information with the biometric data and the personal information.”

The Office Action acknowledges that “Hastings does not expressly teach the steps of inputting personal information into the system, associating biometric data extracted from the biometric identifier with the personal information, storing the biometric data and associated personal information after initial registration, and associating preference information with the stored biometric data and with the personal identification number.”

See April 15, 2008 Office Action at page 5. In order to overcome these deficiencies, the Office Action cites ShamRao and Ackerman. See *id.*

ShamRao “relates to systems and methods for ensuring security and convenience using a computer readable card.” See ShamRao at [0002]. Ackerman “relates to a method an apparatus for communication between two or more users through a global computer information network such as the Internet.” See Ackerman at [0002].

The Applicant respectfully submits, however, that neither of these two references, which the Office Action relies on as disclosing “preference information,” describes, teaches or suggests a system or network “wherein **user preference information with respect to imaging capabilities of said medical imaging device** is associated with the stored biometric data and with the personal identification information,” as recited in claim 1, nor “wherein personal identification information and **user preference information with respect to imaging capabilities of said medical imaging device** are associated with the stored biometric data,” as recited in claim 10. Further, none of these references describes, teaches or suggests a “method of using a medical imaging system comprising ... “storing **individual imaging preferences for the medical imaging system as user preference information** and associating the user preference information with the biometric data and the personal information,” as recited in claim 19.

Thus, for at least these reasons, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1, 10, 19, and the claims that depend therefrom. The Applicant respectfully submits that the proposed combination of references does not render the pending claims unpatentable.

In general, the Office Action makes various statements regarding the pending claims and the cited references that are now moot in light of the above. Thus, the Applicant will not address such statements at the present time. The Applicant expressly reserves the right, however, to challenge such statements in the future should the need arise (e.g., if such statement should become relevant by appearing in a future claim rejection).

The Applicant respectfully requests that the outstanding rejections be reconsidered and withdrawn for at least the reasons discussed above. If the Examiner has any questions or the Applicant can be of any assistance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney for Applicant.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any necessary fees, or credit any overpayment to the Deposit Account No. 07-0845.

Respectfully submitted,

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